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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 772
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend J. D. Jamerson of Mount Gilliam Baptist Church for achieving the milestone of thirty-two years as Pastor of his congregation.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those members of the cloth whose devout service to God and their respective communities has instilled in others the faith to follow His spiritual path; and

WHEREAS, Reverend J. D. Jamerson is one such distinguished citizen who radiates God's love and evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; through his great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, he has enriched the lives of the people in his congregation and his community for more than three decades as the Pastor of Mount Gilliam Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2002, he will be celebrating thirty-two years in the service for the Lord and the congregation at Mount Gilliam; and

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WHEREAS, a native of Hinds County, Mississippi, Reverend Jamerson is the son of Reverend and Mrs. Odie Jamerson; the second son of eight children, he developed a love of the Lord and his Christian family at an early age; and

WHEREAS, as a young man, he answered the call of duty to his country as one of the many gallant citizen-soldiers who protected and ensured the freedom of this nation and our world; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his discharge from the United States Army, he returned to Memphis; in March 1946, he married Ms. Rosa Bulter and joined St. Luke Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, a short while later, he was called to the Ministry and was subsequently ordained; and

WHEREAS, understanding the immense value of education, he studied at the Hooks School of Photography in 1950 and at Henderson Business College in 1952; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Reverend Jamerson was called to assist Reverend E. Bates at Mount Gilliam Baptist Church, where he also served as President of the Choir and Director of the Baptist Training Union; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, he was elected Pastor of the congregation, following the untimely death of Reverend Bates; and

WHEREAS, always seeking to further his own knowledge so that he might better serve in the Kingdom, he studied at and graduated from the Brewster School of Theology and Campbell School of Religion; and

WHEREAS, he has also shared his vast wisdom and experience with numerous young men who have been called to Ministry and has thus earned recognition as the "Father of the Gospel"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jamerson is blessed with a great and loving heart for God's work and a magnetic personality, and his congregation is still benefiting from his wisdom and love more than three decades, after he first stood at the pulpit as their Pastor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; he has served as a Probation Officer and has been active in Christian Social Workers, Orange Mound Concerned Citizens Inc., Orange Mound Soup Kitchen, and numerous other benevolent organizations; and

WHEREAS, renowned as a religious leader of the greatest ability, he has served as Treasurer of the Tennessee Regular State Convention, Director General of the Tennessee Regular State Congress, Secretary of the Trustee Board of Campbell School of Religion, and Moderator of the Shelby County District Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jamerson is committed to the highest ideals of family values; he is most grateful for the tremendous love and companionship that he shares with his beloved wife, Rosa, and he is the proud and devoted father of Janice, Jerome, Joyce, and Michael; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jamerson's outstanding career as a dynamic and compassionate Pastor and an active civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on God's grace, his dedication to the time-honored values of hard work and common sense, and his uncommon ability to relate to people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, an unwavering commitment to the work of his Creator and Savior, the betterment of the lives of his congregation, and the welfare of all of humanity are hallmarks of the life and career of Reverend Jamerson; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a man of Reverend J. D. Jamerson's stature walks among us, and it is important that we honor him for his strong character and selfless good works and also recognize him for his life of purpose and commitment to God; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Reverend J. D. Jamerson for his thirty-two years of meritorious service to the Lord as Pastor of Mount Gilliam Baptist Church, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and many invaluable contributions to this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish him much happiness and success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.